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ABSTRACT

The ScholarshipBuilder Program, an adopt-a-class program, began in November 1988 to encourage selected first-grade students to stay in school until graduation in the year 2000. Scholarships will be provided by Merrill Lynch, Incorporated, for students who go on to college, and a one-time stipend will be provided to students who enter the military or become employed full-time immediately after graduation from high school. Atlanta is one of 10 cities participating in the ScholarshipBuilder Program nationwide. Twenty-five students from Capital View Elementary School in Atlanta (Georgia) were selected, including 3 white males, 10 African American males, and 12 African American females. A social worker from the Atlanta Public Schools and a social worker from the Atlanta Urban League were assigned to work with these students, their families, and the teaching staff. Second-year program activities were evaluated and the status of students after 2 years is described. At the end of the two program years, five students had moved from the Atlanta schools, but were in other schools in Georgia. Four students originally deemed at-risk academically remained in the at-risk group, while three were no longer in this category, and one had moved into this category. Recommendations for assistance for these students and for program continuation are provided. An appendix contains an achievement profile for program students. (SLD)

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOLARSHIP BUILDER PROGRAM
1989-1990

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DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Second Annual Report of the ScholarshipBuilder Program

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SCHOLARSHIPBUILDER PROGRAM
1989-90

ABSTRACT

The ScholarshipBuilder Program began in November, 1988 for the purpose of encouraging selected first grade students to stay in school until they graduate in the year 2000. Scholarships will be provided by Merrill Lynch, Incorporated for students who go on to college, and a one-time stipend will be provided to students who either enter the military or become employed full time immediately after graduating.

Atlanta is one of ten cities participating in the ScholarshipBuilder Program nationwide. Other cities include Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D. C. Twenty-five students who were first graders at Capitol View Elementary School in 1988-89 were selected as the program participants from the city of Atlanta: 3 white males, 10 African- American males, and 12 African-American females.

A social worker from Atlanta Public Schools, and a social worker from the Atlanta Urban League (the local administrative agency) were assigned to the program to work with students, their families, and the teaching staff at the school to insure that these students succeed.

This report (a) describes second-year program activities; (b) presents the status of students after two years; and (c) presents issues along with recommendations for improving the program.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIPBUILDER PROGRAM

1989-90

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1989-90

INTRODUCTION

The ScholarshipBuilder Program was established during the beginning of the 1988-89 school year by Merrill Lynch, Incorporated. Ten cities nationwide were targeted for the program: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D. C. The national Urban League and its local affiliates in the ten participating cities were selected to administer the program.

Twenty-five first grade students were selected from target schools in each of the ten target cities for a total of 250 students nationwide. Capitol View Elementary School was selected as the target school for the City of Atlanta, and 25 1988-89 first grade students were randomly selected as the target group. (See the 1988-89 evaluation report for the ScholarshipBuilder Program for selection criteria and profiles of target students.)

The ScholarshipBuilder Program is an adopt-a-class program designed to encourage students to (a) stay in school, (b) do well in school, (c) dream dreams, (d) graduate on time, and (e) further their education beyond high school. Students who decide to further their education will be eligible to receive up to a four-year scholarship for college or advanced training. Also, students who graduate from high school and immediately enter the military or become employed full-time will receive a one-time stipend. (See the 1988-89 evaluation report for the contractual agreement between parents of program students and Merrill Lynch.)

SECOND-YEAR ACTIVITIES

Ten program activities were held for parents and/or ScholarshipBuilder students during the 1989-90 school year. The year began with a celebration of the Summer Reading Program in which target students participated. This celebration was held on August 26, 1989, at the Spaghetti Factory in Atlanta, and was sponsored by Merrill Lynch.

The second activity was a meeting which was held at Capitol View Elementary School. Featured at this meeting was a film taping by the Georgia State Department of Education. The film focused on programs in Georgia designed to keep students in school, and was aired in October, 1989.

The third activity of the year consisted of a series of small group sessions with students during the months of October, November, and December. These sessions centered around the theme, Sharing for Success. Topics dealt with during the sessions included drugs, staying in school, doing well in school, and many other topics in which students wished to discuss and share their views and concerns.

The fourth activity of the year was an educational and counseling meeting with parents which was held on November 14, 1989. This meeting focused on home reading programs, how parents can help their children in reading, parenting skills, and adult literacy programs. A presentation was made on the Adult Education Programs in the Atlanta Public Schools. Also, information on the second grade curricula was shared with parents.

In December, 1989, the second annual anniversary ceremony was held. This program, representing the fifth activity, was hosted by Merrill Lynch who presented program participants present with Mickey Mouse watches. A total of 23 of the 25 participants were in attendance at this anniversary awards ceremony. Nineteen parents, representing 17 families, were also present. A representative from Congressman John Lewis' office read a letter of commendation to the participants, and each participant was presented an autographed photograph of the Congressman. The annual photo of ScholarshipBuilder students was taken by a representative from the Atlanta Urban League.

Parents were invited on April 21, 1990, to a parenting conference (the sixth activity) which was held at Southside Comprehensive High School. This conference was sponsored by the Black Women's Coalition of Atlanta. Four parents, representing three program participants, attended.

A visit to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens on May 5, 1990, sponsored by Merrill Lynch, was the seventh activity for the school year. Although only a few parents and students attended, the parents were so thrilled with the visit that they agreed to talk to other parents at the next scheduled activity about the wonderful opportunity for education and excitement which fellow parents had missed.

A parent meeting held on May 22, 1990, represented the eighth activity for the year. At this meeting, parents who had attended the April parenting conference and parents who had taken the trip to the Atlanta Botanical Gardens presented reports to other parents present. ScholarshipBuilder program updates were presented by the APS social worker and representatives from the Atlanta Urban League and Merrill Lynch. Parents were also presented three-ring binders which included parenting resource information and which were designed to accommodate additional materials.

The ninth activity for the year was marked by a completion-of-second-grade celebration. Representatives from the central office staff (Dr. Barbara Whitaker, Assistant Superintendent of Planning and Expanded Services; Dr. Norman Thomas, Director of Community Outreach; Dr. Graneze Fretwell, Area I Resource Teacher and Janet Martin, the ScholarshipBuilder Social Worker), Merrill Lynch, the Atlanta Urban League, parents, guests of parents and program participants were in attendance at this celebration. Thirteen parents and 11 target students representing 12 target families were present. Program participants and teachers were awarded certificates; parents were provided the poem "Children Live What They Learn" on parchment paper suitable for framing and subscriptions to Kid City magazine; and children were awarded live venus-flytrap plants.

The tenth activity for the 1989-90 school year was an invitation to parents which included free tickets to attend the Atlanta Tribute to Nelson Mandella. This event was held on June 27, 1990.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, the social worker provided social services to the families of the ScholarshipBuilder students, and individual tutorial assistance was provided by Atlanta University Center and community volunteers to seven students. These students were deemed at-risk academically, based on Spring 1989 test scores.

STATUS OF STUDENTS AFTER TWO YEARS

At the end of two program years, 20 of the 25 ScholarshipBuilder students remained in the Atlanta Public School System, 18 were still at Capitol View Elementary School, one was enrolled at Minnie Howell Elementary School, and one was at Dean Rusk Elementary School. Of the remaining five students, two were attending school in Dekalb County, one was in Floyd County, one was in Fulton County, and the other was attending school in Griffin.

During the Spring of 1990, the second grade students were administered Form J of the 1985 edition of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS). The mean normal curve equivalent (NCE) results in reading and total mathematics for the ScholarshipBuilder students for the 1990 and 1989 test administrations are compared in the table (see appendix) to the reading and mathematics scores for the nonprogram students at Capitol View Elementary School.

It can be seen from the table (see appendix) that the ITBS performance of the target students improved in reading and mathematics in 1990 compared to 1989. The average NCE in reading increased by one point, and the average NCE in mathematics increased by two points. On the other hand, the average NCE for the nontarget second graders at Capitol View decreased by ten points in reading and seven points in mathematics. Nevertheless, average NCEs for the nonprogram students remained higher in both subject areas than the average scores for the program students. These differences were not statistically significant.

In determining if a student was at-risk academically, an NCE score of 35 or less was the criterion used. An NCE score of 35 is roughly equivalent to a national percentile (NP) score of 25. Based on this criterion, five students were academically at-risk at the end of the school year. Of the five students, three were at-risk in reading, one was at-risk in mathematics, and one was at-risk in both reading and mathematics. Three of the seven students who were at-risk academically at the end of the previous year were no longer in this category, one student who was not at-risk during the previous year had now moved into this category, and four of the original seven students who were at-risk during the previous year remained at-risk.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue #1: Three students are at-risk academically in reading, one is at-risk in mathematics, and one is at-risk in both reading and mathematics.

Recommendation: Continue to provide instructional tutoring for these students.

Issue #2: The gap between the average ITBS performance of the program students versus the performance of the nonprogram students at Capitol View Elementary School decreased during the second year of the program; however, the average NCEs in reading and mathematics are still higher for the nonprogram students.

Recommendation: Continue to provide coordinated instructional support for the ScholarshipBuilder students.

Issue #3: The ScholarshipBuilder students will be leaving Capitol View Elementary School at the end of the fifth grade to attend middle school. Should these students be moved as a group to the same middle school or not?

Recommendation: A ScholarshipBuilder Support Group should be established to work with and make decisions for the program students. This Support Group should meet at least twice during the school year to be apprised of problems which have occurred or may be foreseen with regard to the program students and their families. The Support Group should consist of the following:

- The Area Superintendent or his/her designee,
- The Principal of Capitol View Elementary School,
- The Teacher assigned to the program students,
- The Social Worker assigned to the school, and
- The Research Assistant assigned to the school.

MR:jep
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APPENDIX

ACHIEVEMENT PROFILE FOR SCHOLARSHIPBUILDER STUDENTS

Student ID	Reading		Mathematics	
	ITBS (NCE)** 1989	ITBS (NCE) 1990	ITBS (NCE) 1989	ITBS (NCE) 1990
1554521	67	--	77	--
* 2127123	26	28	45	39
* 3202800	47	32	77	72
* 3226979	20	25	81	99
3227002	49	--	70	--
3227078	45	49	70	77
3227083	54	60	74	56
3227086	63	59	77	90
3227095	65	66	90	87
3227098	61	55	61	61
3227099	40	72	45	45
3227109	73	66	70	85
3227124	40	42	52	93
3227126	36	44	70	72
3227145	42	38	70	61
3227182	67	60	70	87
3227215	56	60	74	69
3227224	65	64	61	72
+ 3227229	32	42	42	32
* + 3251609	29	23	45	32
3272367	--	--	--	--
3332689	99	99	81	75
3377674	63	--	74	--
3401727	42	55	48	48
3660024	--	--	--	--
ScholarshipBuilder Students	51 (Mean NCE) n = 23	52 (Mean NCE) n = 20	66 (Mean NCE) n = 23	68 (Mean NCE) n = 20
Non-Program Capitol View Students	66 (Mean NCE) n = 57	56 (Mean NCE) n = 56	76 (Mean NCE) n = 57	69 (Mean NCE) n = 56

* Students at-risk in reading
\+ Students at-risk in mathematics
** Mean Normal curve equivalents
-- Scores unavailable